



***WORK SESSION of the Greenbelt City Council held Wednesday, June 17, 2009, for the purpose of holding a stakeholder meeting with the Greenbelt Homes, Inc. (GHI) Board.***

*Mayor Davis started the meeting at 7:32 p.m. It was held in the Board Room of Greenbelt Homes, Inc.*

*PRESENT WERE: Councilmembers Konrad E. Herling, Leta M. Mach, Edward V.J. Putens, Rodney M. Roberts and Mayor Judith F. Davis.*

*STAFF PRESENT WERE: Michael P. McLaughlin, City Manager; Celia Craze, Director of Planning and Development; and Cindy Murray, City Clerk.*

*ALSO PRESENT WERE: Suzette Agans, Patricia Novinski, Sylvia Lewis, Ed James, David Morse, Diana McFadden and Errol Mazursky, GHI Board; Dianne Wilkerson and Dorothy Lauber, GHI Audit Committee; Gretchen Overdurff, GHI Manager; Mary Moien, Greenbelt News Review; Eldon Ralph, Henry Haslinger, Ed Halley, Ann Lombardi, Bill Orleans and others.*

*Ways to Partner on Areas of Shared Interest and Concern*

*Utility Work (WSSC Project): Ms. Craze reported that her staff was working closely with the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) regarding the improvement project. Mr. Ralph said that he had been included in meetings held between the City and WSSC and was hopeful this would continue. He commented that WSSC improvement work in GHI was still in the design stage.*

*Ms. Mach reported that she had attended the public hearing held by WSSC for residents in the Phase I area. She said the residents in attendance were pleased with the project information provided by WSSC and were hopeful the project would progress smoothly.*

***PEPCO Lights – Service Calls for Replacement:*** *Mr. McLaughlin explained the City process for reporting street light outages. He noted that PEPCO's response to light outages seems to be better over the last few months.*

*Mr. Mazursky asked if GHI light outages should be reported to the City. Mr. McLaughlin suggested contacting PEPCO first, but said he would contact Mr. Baker, the City PEPCO representative, if GHI was experiencing difficulty having particular lights repaired.*

*Mr. Morse suggested putting a list of light outages on the City website so residents would know the City was aware of specific outages.*

*Bench between 11-13 Court Ridge: Mr. Herling reported that residents were concerned that the bench is located in a dark area and attracts negative activity. Mr. McLaughlin said the City will be relocating the bench closer to the street and existing lighting. Ms. Agans mentioned moving*

*the bench doesn't address the darkness of the area. Mayor Davis said the City will consider light installation as a budget issue.*

### ***Reduction of Bus Service in Greenbelt***

*Mayor Davis said Ms. Hruby, Assistant Director of Planning, had been working with Transit Riders United (TRU) regarding the proposed decreases in bus service. She noted TRU had recently met with Councilmember Ingrid Turner regarding the proposed changes. Ms. Agans commented that several GHI Board members were members of TRU and were hopeful upcoming work sessions with the County will produce positive results.*

*Mayor Davis reported that Council had approved for the new fiscal year an increase in service hours for the Greenbelt Connection, including Saturday hours and expanded Sunday hours.*

*Mr. James mentioned the agreement the City of College Park had with the University of Maryland which enabled residents of College Park to use the UM shuttle bus. Mayor Davis said the City is looking into this arrangement, possible for next fiscal year.*

### ***Right of Way Issue***

*Ms. Craze described the complexity of the right of way issue. She said that Ms. Hruby had met with the Maryland National Park and Planning Commission (MNCPPC) and had received good information on how to proceed to correct the property lines. Ms. Craze explained that the City and GHI will need to file a joint petition with the MNCPPC to vacate the current property lines and then submit new redrawn property lines for approval. She noted there would be surveying costs associated with this process, which would have to be worked out between the City and GHI.*

*Ms. Craze said work on this project will begin on Crescent Road, due to the large number of homes involved, and hoped to file a petition with MNCPPC in the fall. She said work would then begin on other streets.*

*Ms. Overdurff and Ms. Lewis, along with several homeowners, commented they were very pleased work on correcting this issue is proceeding.*

### ***Homes Inspections for Code Violations***

*Citation Language and Fines: Ms. Overdurff said she found language on city citations was not consistent, noting often the same violations were described differently. She also asked how fines were assessed. Ms. Craze said she would address the language consistency issue with her staff but explained that their method of handling each violation depends on many factors, such as the severity of the violation, history of the property, and willingness of the resident to address the violation. She emphasized that the goal is to achieve compliance, without relying on municipal infractions and fines. Ms. Craze noted that it can often take six to nine months before a violation gets to court and they prefer to try to work with the residents to address the issue instead of having the problem continue to this point.*

***Green ACES Group Update***

*Mayor Davis explained the name of the City Recycling and Environment Advisory Committee had recently been changed to the Green Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability (Green ACES) to reflect their new focus into sustainability issues. Mr. Herling said Green ACES continues to identify ways to increase recycling, noting their recent work with Empirian Village and outreach to the business community.*

***Greenhill Outfall Stabilization Project Update***

*Ms. Overdurff suggested skipping this issue as GHI will receive a detailed presentation from Ms. Hruby at their meeting next week. Mayor Davis thanked GHI for helping to fund this project.*

***Control of Invasive Species in Adjacent Woodlands***

*Mr. James said the City and GHI deal with control of invasive species in forested areas differently. Mayor Davis said Council has upcoming work sessions to review both the Invasive Species Policy and Pesticide Policy. Ms. Lewis requested that GHI be notified when these work sessions are scheduled.*

*Mr. Morse thanked the City for working with GHI on issues of importance and for the support it provides to GHI.*

*The meeting ended at 9:49 p.m.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Cindy Murray  
City Clerk*